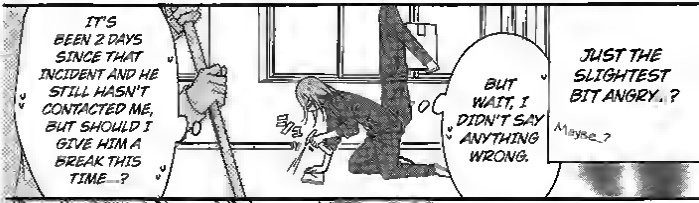
Chapter 51

OR SO IT IS SAID...
ACCORDING TO THE SUPERSTITION FOLLOWING THE COMMON GRADUATION TRADITION
GIVING YOUR TIE TO THE PERSON YOU LIKE WILL FOSTER A CONNECTION BETWEEN YOUR FEELINGS,
AND YOU WILL ALWAYS BE TOGETHER.
THAT'S RIGHT, IT'S A SUPER-STITION.
JUST A SUPER-STITION.
EHHH? NO WAY!
MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL LOVE IS LIKE A FIREWORK - IT DOESN'T REALLY LAST.
'ALWAYS BE TOGETHER'? THAT'S IM-POSSIBLE!

I WENT OFF AND LOST MY TEMPER.
WE HAD A FIGHT.
OR ACTUALLY, IT WAS MORE LIKE...
I'M LEAVING!!
A FIRE-WORK...
I TOTALLY THOUGHT YOU'D BE THE TYPE TO BELIEVE IN THINGS LIKE THAT, EMI-RIN!
OH I DIDN'T EXPECT THAT!
A FIRE-WORK...
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG. THIS GIRL IS JUST DEVASTATED BECAUSE OF THE NEWS OF HER BELOVED KEIGO'S ENGAGEMENT.
I FEEL SO LONELY!!
WAAAAH!!
Hey, this school has taken care of you for 3 years, so you better clean it properly!
HUFF.
NO— I HAVE TO CALM DOWN
WHY AM I TALKING ABOUT LEAVING, THIS IS MY HOUSE!
CLATTER
WHAT DO I DO? IF I WALTZ BACK IN THERE, HE'LL THINK I'M AN IDIOT...
ハァ
ハァ
CREEK
CHOOSE
MAN, YOU ARE SO LOUD.
WHAT ARE YOU SHOUTING ABOUT BY YOURSELF IN THERE?
HUH?!
OH!
IT'S NOTHING!

Oh, Shoukun! You're leaving already?
Thank you for your hospitality.
WAS HE...
I JUST REMEMBERED THAT I HAD SOME ERRANDS TO DO.
SO I'LL GET GOING


IT'S BEEN 2 DAYS SINCE THAT INCIDENT AND HE STILL HASN'T CONTACTED ME, BUT SHOULD I GIVE HIM A BREAK THIS TIME—?
BUT WAIT, I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING WRONG.
JUST THE SLIGHTEST BIT ANGRY...?
Maybe...?

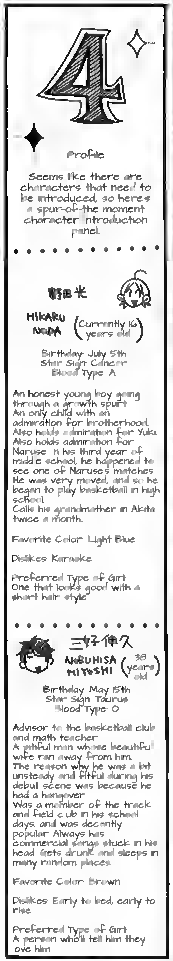
EVEN IF SOMEONE TELLS YOU THAT THEY LIKE YOU?
ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOU REALLY WON'T BE BOTHERED BY IT?

WHY IS IT SO HARD...
TO GET HIM TO UNDERSTAND?
FLOWERS?
GYAA AAH!!
THANK YOU FOR
Keep the Club-room clean.
.....
SLIDE
Now it's late, so don't forget your personal items.
WE'RE GONNA ASK HIMENO-SAN TO PREPARE THE FLOWERS FOR US, ALL RIGHT?
AHHH
SO WE THOUGHT IT'D BE NICE FOR YOU, THE CAPTAIN, TO GIVE SOME FLOWERS TO TONO-SENPAI AND MANAGER MACHIDA.
YEAH! WE'RE GOING TO BE SENDING THEM OFF TOMORROW IN THE GRADUATION CEREMONY RIGHT?
You know?

EH...
WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER FOR YOU TO PASS YUKI-SENPAI THE FLOWERS, HIMENO-SAN?
Since you're both managers and all
THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK
AH... S-SORRY FOR THE MESS...
OH.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, WE'RE PASSING SOME FLOWERS TO THE THIRD YEARS TOMORROW
BE-BECAUSE...!
I REALLY THINK IT'S BETTER IF YOU GIVE HER THE FLOWERS, NARUSE-SENPAI!
WHY? IT'S MORE NATURAL, ISN'T IT?
But
WHY?
THIS IS BAD. I ENDED UP INTRUDING ON A DEEPER LAYER..
What should I do
Um-
I MEAN
I THOUGHT THAT YOU TWO MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING THAT YOU WANTED TO EXPRESS TO EACH OTHER...
AH! SHOOT! I MAY HAVE OVERSTEPPED BOUNDARIES RIGHT THERE...
YOU ARE SORT OF..
SPECIAL...
!
BUT THIS IS GRADUATION, YOU KNOW?!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO CAUTIOUS ABOUT YOUR WORDS LIKE THAT...
UM, YOU KNOW,
..BU...

D-DIDN'T YOU TELL ME BEFORE...?
THAT ONE HAS TO SAY WHAT'S ON THEIR MIND...?
IF... IF YOU DON'T EXPRESS YOUR FEELINGS TO SOMEONE...
THEY WON'T UNDERSTAND YOU...
...TO YOU SAID THIS AT THE TRAINING CAMP
.....TRAINING CAMP
HE'S FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT IT!
Notebook Datebook on Other Schools' Basketball Teams
FLIP
FLIP
IS THIS THE ONE THAT YUKI-SENPAI MADE?
AH... YES...
I BELIEVE SO...

SpLish...
TOMO-RROW'S THE BIG DAY
I'VE FINISHED PACKING UP MY THINGS IN THE CLASSROOM.
PREPARA-TIONS FOR ENTERING COLLEGE CHECK.
PREPARATIONS FOR MOVING OUT: CHECK
EVERYTHING CHECK, EXCEPT-
MY BOYFRIEND, WHO IS STILL GOING TO BE IN HIGH SCHOOL, IS IN A SOUR MOOD AND THAT'S HOW WE'LL BE HEADING INTO THE GRADUATION CEREMONY...
I can't believe it
BUBBLE
BUBBLE
FOAM
FOAM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Profile
Seems like there are characters that need to be introduced, so here's a spur-of-the-moment character introduction panel.
HIKARU NOMA (Currently 16 years old)
Birthday July 5th
Star Sign Cancer
Blood Type A
An honest young boy going through a growth spurt
An only child with an admiration for brotherhood.
Also holds admiration for Yuka.
Also holds admiration for Narusse. In his third year of middle school, he happened to see one of Narusse's matches. He was very moved, and so he began to play basketball in high school.
Calls his grandmother in Akita twice a month.
Favorite Color: Light Blue
Dislikes: Karaoke
Preferred Type of Girl
One that looks good with a short hair style
MITOSHI ANBUNISA (38 years old)
Birthday May 15th
Star Sign Taurus
Blood Type O
Advisor to the basketball club and math teacher.
A pitiful man who has beautiful wife run away from him.
The reason why he was a bit unsteady and pitiful during his debut scene was because he had a hangover.
Was a member of the track and field club in his school days, and was decently popular. Always has commercial songs stuck in his head. Gets drunk and sleeps in many mistaken places.
Favorite Color: Brown
Dislikes: Early to bed, early to rise.
Preferred Type of Girl
A person which tell him they ove him!
FROM THE WAY THE CONVERSATION WAS GOING...
"EVEN IF SOMEONE TELLS YOU THAT THEY LIKE YOU?"
"ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOU REALLY WON'T BE BOTHERED BY IT?"
HE PROBABLY WANTED TO SAY SOMETHING LIKE 'FOR EXAMPLE, WHAT IF MAKAMADA-KUN...?'
SHRIEK
VIBRATE...
Besides he even picked a fight with me during my annual basketball match.
THAT'S DEFINITELY NOT HAPPENING
VIBRATE...

WHAM!
HELLO?
YOU PICKED THAT UP QUICKLY.
OH NO, I WAS JUST LOOKING UP MY MAIL WHEN YOU CALLED
ARE... ARE YOU GOING HOME NOW?
DRIP
DRIP
YEAH I ATE OUT WITH ABE AND THE OTHERS AFTER PRACTICE.
ALSO...
I'M SORRY ABOUT THE OTHER DAY.
BADUMP

IT WAS NO BIG DEAL.
ACTUALLY
IT'S NOT THAT I DOUBT YOU OR ANYTHING, SENPAI.
IT'S JUST...
DON'T YOU SHOW YOUR VULNERABLE SIDE TO SHIZUKA?
IT'S LIKE YOU ALWAYS LOWER YOUR GUARD WHEN YOU'RE WITH HIM
THAT'S WHY I THOUGHT THAT YOU THINK HE'S MORE RELIABLE THAN ME

YOU ACTUALLY DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME ANYTHING ANYMORE.
I WAS JUST A LITTLE NERVOUS, THAT'S ALL.
TH...
THAT'S...
SENPAI... EVEN THOUGH YOU TOLD ME –
THAT I SHOULD SPEAK MY MIND THE OTHER DAY–
...HUH?
WHAT IS HE...
Ohhhhh
THE TRAIN IS COMING SO I'M GONNA HANG UP
SEE YOU TOMOR ROW.
Cough
Beep... Beep... Beep...
Drip...
Drip
...IS HE SAYING...
THAT HE DOESN'T EVEN WANT TO KNOW...?
WE'RE JUST NOT ON THE SAME WAVE LENGTH

AND WE KEEP GROWING FARTHER APART,
卒業証書授
CHATTER
CHATTER
Argh! I forgot my camera!
CHATTER
CHATTER
Morning!
FORM A STRIGHT LINE ACCORDING TO YOUR SCHOOL NUMBER AND FOLLOW THE SECOND YEARS TO THE GYM!
ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT!
Gyaha-haha!
You idiot
Gyaha-ha!

AND THE CYCLE OF ANXIETY CONTINUES
THE MORE I TREASURE HIM...
THE MORE I LIKE HIM....
THE MORE I SEE A GAP FORM BETWEEN US...
IF THIS KEEPS UP...

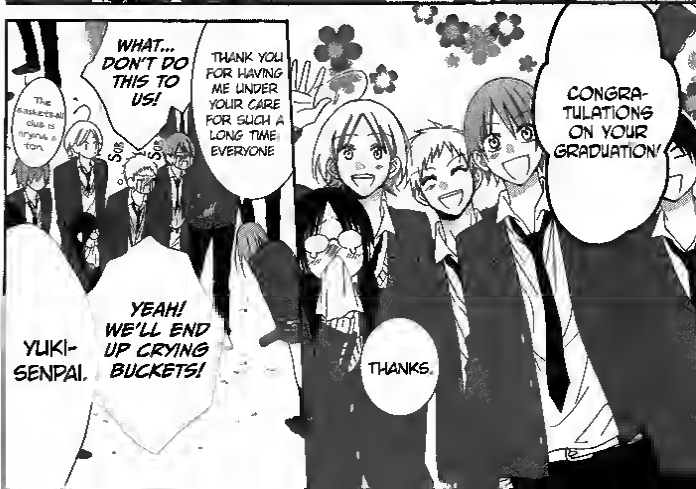
CHATTER
CHATTER
IS MY FLOWER CROOKED?
OH, LET'S TAKE IT OFF REAL QUICK
Wait Sensei I forgot to put on my mascara!
It's fine, you're cute enough as it is.
Sweet talk is useless and all
Gloom...
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M FACING THE GRADUATION CEREMONY IN THIS SITUATION
THE FLOWER ON MY CHEST IS SO HEAVY THAT I FEEL LIKE MY NECK'S GONNA SNAP OFF.
YUK!!
CHATTER
CHATTER
!!
Oh! It's Naruse-kun. Whoa he's like staring at us over here.
TURN
I'M... I'M SUCH AN IDIOT.
WHY DID I LOOK AWAY...
I'VE GOTTA DO SOMETHING... ANYTHING.
OTHER-WISE, IF THIS KEEPS UP...
Yuki, I think you're stabbing your finger with that. You listening? Yuki? Are you alright?

"I WON'T BE ABLE TO GRADUATE!
WITH MUCH FERVOR
SO MAY ALL OF THE GRADUATING STUDENTS SPREAD THEIR WINGS AND REACH OUT TO THE SKIES...
I WISH YOU ALL THE BEST IN YOUR ENTRANCE EXAMS
IN PASSING, MY FAVORITE SINGER
WITH THAT SKILL IN THIS VERY GYM, THE COUNT LOSES
IN ANY CASE I SHOULD TRY AND CONTACT HIM AFTER THE CEREMONY
Yawn
Yeah
COME TO THINK OF IT,
I SPENT MOST OF MY DAYS TOGETHER WITH NARUSE IN THIS GYM
OH, ALSO...
THIS IS THE GYM WHERE WE STARTED GOING OUT WITH EACH OTHER
"SORRY I TOOK A LONG BREAK"
"CAN YOU KEEP THE STIFFNESS TO A MINIMUM? I KEEP LOOKING AT YOUR CHEST IS ENOUGH"
YUKI-SENPAI, WHAT COLOR ARE YOUR PANTIES TODAY?
WHAT THE HELL, EVEN THOUGH I CAN'T THINK OF ANY GOOD SITUATIONS WITH HIM, I'M STILL A BIT TOUCHED
SULLEN
OH, THAT'S RIGHT
THIS IS ALSO THE PLACE WHERE I PROPERLY TOLD HIM THAT I LIKE HIM FOR THE FIRST TIME..

DID I EVER...
WAIT. "THE FIRST TIME"?
BUT WHEN WAS THE NEXT TIME AFTER THAT?
PROPERLY CONVEY...
ALL MY FEELINGS TO NARUSE?
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
IT WASN'T JUST SOME WORDS FROM THE 1ST PART SINCE YEARS...
.....
THAT I WANT HIM TO TRUST ME...
TO LET HIM KNOW HOW MUCH I LOVE HIM...
AND NOT JUST THINKING IT ALL IN MY HEAD, BUT ACTUALLY SAYING IT OUT LOUD TO HIM?
I....
SO MANY IMPORTANT THINGS...
STILL HAVEN'T TOLD HIM...

TONOMURA-SENPAI!
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR GRADUATION!!!
Sob...
THANK YOU.
SENPAI... YOU WERE THE OASIS IN THE CLEANING COMMITTEE!!
CHATTER
HEY, NISHI-YAN, LET'S TAKE A PHOTO!
WHO'S WHAT'S WITH YOUR EYES?
THEY ARE ALL SWOLLEN!

AH, MANAGER MACHIDA!
I cried too much!
Gyaha haha
Waaaah, promise that we'll have our drink summer vacation!


CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR GRADUATION!
THANK YOU FOR HAVING ME UNDER YOUR CARE FOR SUCH A LONG TIME, EVERYONE
WHAT... DON'T DO THIS TO US!
The basketball club is orphaned now.
YEAH! WE'LL END UP CRYING BUCKETS!
YUKI-SENPAI.
THANKS.

HERE.
FROM THE BASKETBALL CLUB.
NARUSE...
WOW
EVERYONE
THANK
YOU...
GRASP
WHOA!
I...
I GRABBED THE WRONG THING...!

GRAB
EEEH HH?!
!?
THEY'RE ELOPING?! THEY'RE ELOPING!!!
WH...
.....

WHERE ARE WE GOING?!
A PLACE WHERE WE CAN TALK
...
IT'S FINE, JUST RUN
LET GO OF ME FOR A MINUTE...!
WH...
WAIT!
TALK?
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT—
YOU TOLD ME 'DON'T SAY ANYTHING' OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT,
AND YET HERE YOU ARE WANTING TO SAY SOMETHING.?
WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?!

THANK YOU...
THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS LOOKING OUT FOR ME...
LIKE, THANK YOU...
FOR TAKING UP THE ROLE OF THE CAP-TAIN.
THERE ARE...
A LOT OF THINGS THAT I WANT TO SAY, TOO...
F-
FOR LOVING ME...
AND THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS STAYING BY MY SIDE.
NO MATTER WHAT ANYONE SAYS TO ME...
OR WHATEVER HAPPENS...
THAT'S WHY..
I REALLY HAVE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT LONG AND HARD
THANK YOU...

I LOVE YOU THE MOST IN THIS UNIVERSE, NARUSE!
REMEMBER THAT!

ドッ
!?
WHAT?
ARE YOU ALRIGHT...?
...I'M GOING TO CRY.
I'M NOT ALRIGHT.
!
AF...
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I'M ASHAMED OF MY OWN CHILDISHNESS
-ACTUALLY,
AFTER ALL THIS TIME ..?
I'VE BEEN ALL DEPRESSED AND KIND OF IRRITATED

BUT ALL OF THAT ANXIETY WAS BLOWN AWAY JUST NOW
THAT'S WHY IT'S BETTER FOR YOU TO TELL ME THINGS LIKE THAT MORE OFTEN. KEEP THEM COMING LIKE HOTCAKES.
TURN
DI...
DIDN'T YOU TELL ME NOT TO SAY ANYTHING?!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
...I WON'T MESS UP LIKE I DID DURING THE COLLEGE EXAM ANY-MORE
!?
LIKE, IF YOU HAVE TIMES WHEN YOU STRUGGLE, OR WHEN YOU'RE IN A BIND
OR TIMES WHEN YOU NEED TO RELY ON SOMEONE,
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO TELL ME ABOUT THEM, YOU DON'T HAVE TO
IF YOU WANT TO HIDE IT, YOU CAN HIDE IT
YOU CAN EVEN PUSH YOUR-SELF BEYOND YOUR LIMITS IF YOU WANT TO

BUT JUST KNOW THAT I'LL TAKE IT UPON MYSELF TO RUN OVER AND HUG YOU,
TO COME AND CARRY YOUR BAGS FOR YOU, AND THINGS LIKE THAT.
FROM NOW ON,
I WON'T MISS A SINGLE DETAIL.
FROM NOW ON,
I'LL MAKE SURE NOT TO MISS ANYTHING ABOUT YOU.
I PROMISE I'LL BE THE ONE CLOSEST TO YOU...

THAT
FOR-EVER...
COMMON AND ORDINARY SUPERSTITION...
WAS PROBABLY A CHARM OF PROTECTION...
DESIGNED TO MATERIALIZE THE PRECIOUS TIME WE HAVE,
TURNING EVERY DAZZLING, SHORT-LIVED MOMENT,
INTO SOMETHING SOLID, WITH SHAPE AND FORM,

SO THAT WE CAN GRASP IT TIGHTLY IN OUR OWN HANDS.
Whoa I just got 15 LINE messages from the club.
It's annoying, so let's go back soon
HEY, LIM...
IF I MAKE THIS SHOT...
WILL YOU, LIM...
...ACCEPT MY TIE...?
RIBBON TIE

I-I STILL KIND OF WANT TO KEEP MY RIBBON AS A MEMOIR TOO, YOU KNOW?!
I even kept my sailor uniform from when I was in middle school!!
BUT ACTUALLY IT'S BECAUSE THERE'S NO WAY I COULD JUST ASK HIM STRAIGHT TO ACCEPT MY RIBBON!!
YOU KNOW, WE'RE DATING SO THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO GO AND MAKE A BET LIKE THAT.
...ALL RIGHT.
SO LOOK AFTER THE FLOWERS AND THE PAPER TUBE.
I'M DOING IT!
AN... ANYWAY!
Dn'oma

IF YOU STILL MISS AT THIS DISTANCE, YUKI-SENPAI, THEN THAT MEANS YOU'RE REALLY BAD AT SPORTS
SHUT UP!
WHOA!
I'M SO CLOSE...
AWW.
HUH?!
!!?
BADUMP..
BADUMP..
OKAY...

YUKI-SENPAI,
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR GRADUATION
Kyaha haha!
YOU KNOW,
NARUSE...

ALL THE TIME YOU HAVE GIVEN ME UP UNTIL THIS MOMENT...
...THANK YOU.
HAS BECOME MY OWN CHARM TO MAKE ME STRONGER.

IMPATIENT SCANS
WWW FACEBOOK COM/IMPATIENTSCANS

TRANSLATOR: NELZE
CLEANERS: TOKKI
REDRAWERS: GRACEEEEEI
TYPESETTER: TANS, KRAFTY, NEKOMANCER
QC/EDITING: PLUMJUCIE, SHADOWSLAYER

DO THE RIGHT THING
EXCEPT WHEN YOU SHOULD
DO THE WRONG THING